



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY AGRICULTURE REACHES ALL TIME HIGH

Crop Value Tops Billion Dollar Mark for Thirteenth Straight Year

San Diego County's agricultural value reached an all-time high in 2005, climbing to \$1.5 billion, according to new statistics compiled by the County Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures (AWM).

"This is the thirteenth consecutive year that the county's agricultural crops have risen in value. This is a five percent increase over last year and shows agriculture is alive and thriving in San Diego County," said County Agricultural Commissioner Bob Atkins.

The figures contained in the annual crop report, produced by AWM, shows that agriculture continues to be a vibrant component of the economy in San Diego County. Agriculture ranks as the fifth most valuable industry in San Diego County's economy. San Diego growers exported 8,500 shipments to 62 countries around the world.

According to the report, more than 200 crops are grown locally. Eighteen (18) crops had a value of \$10 million or more. Nursery and flower crops continue to dominate the industry in San Diego County, accounting for \$990,900,400 – or 66 percent – of the County's agricultural value. The single most valuable crop grown was indoor flowering and foliage plants, which accounted for almost a third of the total nursery and flower crops income. Rounding out the top five crops were ornamental trees and shrubs, avocados, bedding plants and cut flowers.

To obtain a full copy of the report, go to http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/awm/crop_statistics.html.

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